

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KHARTO 01057 050706Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 AID-05 /088 W

-----050709Z 063124 /13

R 301254Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4001

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY SANA

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1057

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT SU

SUBJECT: MARCH FACE THE NATION SPEECH

SUMMARY: NIMEIRI'S MONTHLY TELEVISION ADDRESS MAR 28 PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM REPORT ON RECENT DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY INCLUDING VARIOUS SUMMITS. HE STRESSED THEMES OF GREATER COOPERATION WITH ARABS AND AFRICANS BUT SAID VIRTUALLY NOTHING ABOUT LIBYA, ETHIOPIA, USSR. HE ANNOUNCED INTENTION ESTABLISH CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 KHARTO 01057 050706Z

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH KOREA. NIMEIRI EXPLAINED AT LENGTH MAJOR POLICIES HE INTENDS FOLLOW DURING SECOND TERM AS PRESIDENT (REFERENDUM ON WHICH IS IN APRIL), EMPHASIZING ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES WHICH WILL GUIDE HIM. LATTER STRESS LIKELY SEND MINOR SHIVER DOWN BACKS SUDAN'S NON-MUSLIM SOUTHERNERS. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S MONTHLY TELEVISION ADDRESS MAR 28 WAS HIS FIRST OPPORTUNITY REPORT TO SUDANESE PUBLIC ON MANY IMPORTANT LOCAL AND DIPLOMATIC EVENTS SINCE SADAT/ASSAD/ NIMEIRI MEETING HERE END FEBRUARY. AS HE HAD IN JUBA MAR 3, NIMEIRI STRESSED THAT ADDIS ACCORDS ENDING CIVIL WAR REMAIN IN FORCE EVEN THOUGH FIVE-YEAR INTERIM PERIOD NOW RPT NOW OVER AND REAFFIRMED SOUTHERN AUTONOMY IN UNIFIED SUDAN. NIMEIRI ALSO NOTED GOOD RELATIONS PREVAILING WITH SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT, KUWAIT AND UAE AND SUDAN'S JOINING SYRO/EGYPTIAN UNIFIED PLLITICAL COMMAND WHICH, HE SAID, ANY INTERESTED ARAB COUNTRY INVITED TO JOIN. PRESIDENT VOICED PLEASURE OVER OUTCOME FIRST AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT, ANNOUNCING THAT SECON WOULD BE IN KHARTOUM IN 1980 AND THAT OAU SUMMIT WILL TAKE PLACE HERE NEXT YEAR. HE REVIEWED HIS RECENT VISIT TO OMAN, SOMALIA AND TWO YEMENS AND NOTED GOS COMMITMENT PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO THESE COUNTRIES AND TO ENCOURAGE RECONCILIATION AND COOPERATION AMONG THEM. FINALLY, NIMEIRI DISCUSSED SOUTH KOREAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN WHICH ACCORDING TO SPEECH WILL TOTAL WELL OVER \$100 MILLION FOR SEVERAL SEPARATE PROJECTS, AND HE REVEALED FOR FIRST TIME PUBLICLY THAT TWO NATIONS ARE WORKING TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

2. EVIDENTLY WITH APRIL REFERENDUM IN MIND, MOST OF NIMEIRI'S SPEECH DEVOTED TO DETAILED STATEMENT OF WHAT HIS PROGRAM AND BEHAVIOR WILL BE DURING SECOND SIX-YEAR PRESIDENTIAL TERM BEGINNING OCTOBER. AFTER REVIEWING TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS EXPERIENCED BY MAY REVOLUTION, NIMEIRI PORTRAYED A SUDAN WHICH, STRONG AND SECURE, WILL BEGIN ACHIEVE FULL ECONOMIC POTENTIAL AND START SHARING ITS WEALTH WITH LESS FORTUNATE. SUDAN WILL CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KHARTO 01057 050706Z

PLAY MORE ACTIVE ROLE INTERNATIONALLY WITH FOREIGN POLICY FOCUSING ON ARAB AND AFRICAN WORLDS WHILE FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND PRIVATE CAPITALISM WOULD BE ENCOURAGED. INTERNALLY, THERE WILL BE GREATER POWER AND PRESPONSIBILITY AT REGIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL LEVELS. NEW CITIES AND UNIVERSITIES WILL BE BUILT AND GREATER ATTENTION WILL BE PAID TO RURAL AFFAIRS. NIMEIRI ALSO PROMISED BEGIN GROOMING SUCCESSOR.

3. THROUGHOUT ABOVE PORTION OF HIS SPEECH NIMEIRI PLEDGED TO BE PERSONALLY OPEN AND HONEST. HE MADE NUMBER OF REFERENCES TO ISLAM, SUCH AS PROMISING TO QUOTE INDULGE IN ISLAMIC STUDIES UNQUOTE AND EXPRESSING HIS FAITH IN ALLAH AND THE PROPHET.

4. COMMENT: NIMEIRI'S FAILURE DO REPRISE ON USUAL LIBYA, ETHIOPIA OR USSR THEMES DOES NOT RPT NOT SEEM PORTEND ANY SOFTENING OF REGIME'S ANTAGONISM TOWARD THEM. SAME EVENING NIMEIRI WAS MAKING HIS TV SPEECH, SSU SY ABUL GASSIM (REGIME'S DE FACTO NUMBER TWO) IN SPEECH BROADCAST LIVE OVER RADIO

OMDURMAN WAS BLASTING LIBYANS AND SOVIETS. NIMEIRI'S REMARKS SEEM DESIGNED PORTRAY HIM IN BEST LIGHT FOR COMING REFERENCE. THERE WAS USUAL EMPHASIS ON SUDAN'S CORDIAL TIES WITH KEY ARAB STATES. THIS PLUS NEW EMPHASIS ON ISLAM CAN BE EXPECTED RECEIVE COOL RECEPTION AMONG SOUTHERNERS.  
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## Message Attributes

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